

Bills pave the way for a new era in conservation

For Immediate Release

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(Washington, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Albio Sires voted for H.R. 3221 and H.R. 2776, the Democratic Energy Independence Initiative, which will place America at the forefront in energy conservation, and move our country away from its dependence on foreign oil. The initiative reduces energy costs to consumers, creates new jobs, fights global warming, and makes our nation more secure.

"This legislation will help us conserve energy at home and will allow my constituents of the 13th District of New Jersey to save money. It will also make the U.S. more energy independent, an issue undeniably linked to our national security," said Congressman Sires. "I'm glad we were able to pass this bill as many Americans hit the road for their summer vacations. They will know that the New Direction Congress has acted to protect our environment and improve energy efficiency."

The legislation approved by the House today strengthens national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, makes the largest investment in homegrown biofuels in history, and creates worker training programs and training opportunities for our veterans to ensure our workforce knows how to properly implement green building, such as solar panel manufacturing. The legislation also supports cutting edge-research and the development of new technologies that will bring down energy costs for consumers.

A second component of this package closes loopholes that offer incentives for businesses to purchase gas-guzzling vehicles, and repeals \$23 billion in tax subsidies and royalty relief provisions for big oil companies. It also provides incentives for manufacturers to build more energy efficient appliances, helps working families afford hybrid vehicles, and assists small businesses to create energy efficient workplaces.

"America should be a leader in the fight to end global warming. This legislation puts us on a path toward a cleaner environment, a safer country and a stronger economy," said Congressman Sires.

H.R. 3221 and H.R. 2776 passed the House and await consideration in the U.S. Senate before heading to a conference between both chambers.

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